



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DPSCS Announces the Appointments of
John Michael Stouffer and Howard Ray, Jr.,
as Commissioners of the Division of Correction
and Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, respectively**

TOWSON, MD (Wednesday, October 17, 2007) – Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Gary Maynard announced today the appointments of Acting Commissioner John Michael Stouffer as Commissioner of the Division of Correction (DOC) and Acting Commissioner Howard Ray, Jr., as Commissioner of the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS).

“Commissioners Stouffer and Ray have significant experience at their respective Divisions and are known for bringing effective leadership to their agencies,” said Secretary Maynard. “Their work in the interim has been tremendous and I know their experience, commitment and professionalism will help make this a seamless transition for everyone.”

Commissioner Stouffer has a long, distinguished career in the Maryland Division of Correction beginning in 1980 when he served as a correctional officer. He served in various correctional officer capacities at the Roxbury Correctional Institution and began his tenure in prison management in 1994 when he was appointed Assistant Warden at the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC). He would eventually become Warden of MCTC as well as go on to serve in various assistant and deputy commissioner positions at DOC headquarters.

“I am grateful for this opportunity to continue serving the people of the Maryland,” said Commissioner Stouffer. “With the Secretary’s support, the Division has embarked on several changes which will enhance safety for our employees, the inmates we supervise and the public.”

Commissioner Stouffer graduated summa cum laude from the University of Baltimore where he received a B.S. in Criminal Justice. He and his family live in Washington County.

Commissioner Howard Ray similarly has an accomplished career in the field of corrections and supervision. He began his career as a probation and parole officer in Oklahoma in 1975. He served in various positions within Oklahoma’s and the District of Columbia’s Department of Corrections including case manager, chief hearing examiner, administrator and warden at minimum, medium and maximum security facilities. Commissioner Ray also held various executive positions with private companies such as American Correctional Industries and Correctional Services Corporation. Commissioner Ray graduated from Central Oklahoma University with a BA of Education and a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice.

“I am proud to lead the hard working men and women of this Division and am honored by Secretary Maynard’s confidence in my stewardship,” said Commissioner Ray. “The Secretary has been very supportive of our efforts to improve pretrial services, which has helped the Division be a strong partner in improving public safety in Baltimore.”

Commissioner Ray began his tenure with DPSCS in 2003 when he was appointed Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services. He resides in Baltimore County.

Governor O’Malley has approved both appointments. As per the Maryland Annotated Code, Correctional Services Article, Section 3-202, Stouffer will continue to serve as Interim Commissioner pending the advice and consent of the Maryland State Senate. Commissioner Ray’s appointment has only to be approved by the governor according to the Maryland Annotated Code, Correctional Services Article, Section 5-202.

The mission of the Division of Correction is to protect citizens from repeated criminal activities of offenders sentenced to the Division’s jurisdiction. This is accomplished through the secure confinement of offenders and their successful reintegration into the community. There are 26 prisons and pre-release facilities throughout Maryland. Commissioner Stouffer will continue to oversee a Division with more than 6600 employees and a budget of more than \$752 million.

Commissioner Ray will continue to manage more than 1600 employees within the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services as well as its budget of more than \$143 million. The primary responsibilities of DPDS is booking, processing and managing the care, custody and control of Baltimore City arrestees. The Division has jurisdiction over the Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center (BCBIC), Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC) and the Pretrial Release Service Program.